Kerosene oil Quota to U.P.

1788. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state: .

(a) whether it is a fact that the Uttar Pradesh is getting Kerosene quota less than the national average;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the quota of Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The per capita availability of kerosene in U.P. during 1997-98 was 8.47 KG/annum which was below the national average of 11.41 KG/annum.

(b) and (c) Allocation of kerosene is made on historical basis, i.e. past years supplies plus additional allocation out of increase given at national level. SKO is a deficit product and more than 40% of our requirements are met by imports. Due to constraints of product availability, foreign exchange and heavy subsidy involved, it is not possible to meet the full demand of the States. A very high increase has been given in the allocation of kerosene in 1998-99 to those States having per capita availability of kerosene much lower than the national average. Accordingly, an increase of 18.01% has been made in the allocation of kerosene for Uttar pradesh for the year 1998-99, compared to the 8.58% increase at the country level. This increase amounts to an additional quantity of 212261 MTs. The per capita availability of kerosene in the State has increased to 10 KG/annum in 1998-99 from 8.47 KG/annum in 1997-98.

Conference on Oil Exploration

1789. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a conference of petroleum geophysicists and oil industry representatives was held in Chennai on January 19, 1998 to identify and evolve appropriate strategies in oil exploration, to make India self reliant in respect of oil and other petroleum products;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof indicating the strategies evolved; and

(c) whether any plan of action is contemplated to make the country self-sufficient in respect of petroleum products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) The 2nd Conference and Exposition on Petroleum Geophysics was held at Chennai from January 19—21, 1998. The theme of the Conference was "Roads to future Challenges and opportunities in Petroleum Geophysics".

Formulation of oil exploration strategies to make the country self sufficient in respect of petroleum production was beyond the scope of this conference.

(b) and (c) Docs not arise in view of (a) above.

Re- Constitution of Planning Commission

1790. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Planning Commission is not being re-constituted for some time, as reported in the Economic Times dated 21.5.1998;

(b) if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) when it is likely to be reconstituted to evaluate afresh the Ninth Plan document and also to discharge its assigned role in economic development?